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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Academy has lost nineteen members by death since the annual meeting of May 10, 1899, as follows: Six Resident Fellows,— John Harrison Blake, Epes Sargent Dixwell, Charles Franklin Dunbar, Silas Whitcomb Holman, Francis Minot, John Codman Ropes; eight Associate Fellows,— Albert Nicholas Arnold, Frederic Edwin Church, Sir John William Dawson, Manning Ferguson Force, Daniel Raynes Goodwin, William Alexander Hammond, Edward John Phelps, George Clinton Swallow; and five Foreign Honorary Members,— Robert Wilhelm Bunsen, James Martineau, Sir James Paget, Carl Friedrich Rammelsberg, and John Ruskin.

EPES SARGENT DIXWELL.

EPES SARGENT DIXWELL was born in Boston, on the 27th of December, 1807, and died in Cambridge, on the 1st of December, 1899.

He was the son of Dr. John Dixwell, who graduated from Harvard College in 1796 and received the degree of M.D. in 1811, and of Esther Sargent, his wife. Dr. Dixwell was a descendant of the regicide.

Mr. Dixwell was educated at the Boston Latin School, and entered Harvard College when he was not yet sixteen years old. In college he was recognized as an admirable scholar, and the interest which he then showed in literature and music continued through his life, and afforded a solace to his declining years. Graduating from college in the class of 1827, he turned his attention to teaching, though perhaps not then realizing that this was to be the profession of his life. The two years during which he was sub-master of the Boston Latin School were followed by several years spent in the study of law in the office of one of the most eminent lawyers of Boston, Charles G. Loring. He was admitted to the bar in October, 1833, and for three years he practised

his profession; but in the autumn of 1836 he was chosen head-master of the Boston Latin School, and at once took up his work as an instructor of youth, a work which was to occupy his best thoughts and efforts for over a generation. In 1851, owing to certain municipal regulations, he felt called upon to resign his position, and at once opened "The Private Latin School" in Boylston Place, which from its start became very popular. Here he labored for twenty-one years, and when in 1872 he gave up the school with which his name had been so long associated, he found that he had taken part during the course of his teaching in preparing between four and five hundred graduates of Harvard for admission to college, besides teaching many others whose lives bear witness to his instruction.

After relinquishing the active duties of his school, Mr. Dixwell led a quiet and retired life in Cambridge, which he had chosen for his residence in 1842. Here he spent the remainder of his long life, except during two trips to Europe and his summer outings in the mountains or at the seashore. He found in Cambridge the congenial literary atmosphere which he enjoyed, and he contributed his share to the social and scientific life of Cambridge and of Boston. He was a member of various societies, and among others of the American Oriental Society, the Harvard Musical Association, and of our own Society, having been elected to the Academy in August, 1848. But in "The Scientific Club" of Cambridge he took more pleasure, perhaps, than in any other, for here he enjoyed the social intimacy of Agassiz, Peirce, Gray, Quincy, Sparks, Walker, Hill, Everett, Felton, Wyman, and of many others who have held distinguished rank in literary, professional, and scientific circles. With President Felton he had the still closer tie which came from their having been roommates in college.

Though Mr. Dixwell's life was a quiet one by choice, he did not neglect his duties as a citizen and church-goer. He early saw the necessity of manual training in the public schools, and served for many years as a trustee of the Parish fund of his church.

He thoroughly enjoyed his travels in Europe, as it gave him the opportunity which he had long wished for, of wandering through classic scenes and of seeing the wonders of classic and modern art, with which he had already become acquainted through his studies. He is said to have been more familiar with the topography of Rome than were many who had lived there for many years.

He was an admirable classical scholar, and his translations into Latin verse give evidence of his thorough knowledge of the language and of

his ready skill in its use. A little volume of these verses called "*Otia Senectutis*," published in 1885, is a proof that old age had not dulled the critical keenness of his mind. English verse also flowed freely from his pen, and the lines which for many years he was accustomed to write for the annual family gatherings, in which he always took the greatest interest and pleasure, will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of listening to them, for their tender pathos, their wit and their humor.

But it is as a teacher that Mr. Dixwell is best known. As an assistant instructor in the public schools of Boston, as the head-master of the Boston Latin School, and as the master of his own private school for many years, his influence over the education of young men was very wide. His coming to the Latin School was welcomed as a sign that accurate scholarship and a high moral tone would be combined with a strict discipline in the management of that institution, and these expectations were justified in both the great schools with which he was connected. One of his early scholars at the Boston Latin School recalls him as a stimulating and encouraging teacher, always insisting on accuracy, but trying to make his pupils see the beauties of the author whose work they were reading; as a strict disciplinarian, possessed of a dignified bearing, something of a martinet, and inspiring awe in those who were not able to see beneath the somewhat cold exterior the real kindness of his nature.

He was not only a good classical scholar but also was well versed in all the branches which were taught in his school; and the pupil must have been dull indeed who, needing an explanation of a difficult point, left Mr. Dixwell's presence without having the difficulties thoroughly cleared away.

Ready to excuse errors of judgment or of ignorance, he was unwilling to condone moral faults, and his standard in the studies which were taught under his care was high. Bright scholars were encouraged and assisted in their work, and to dull scholars he extended sympathy and a helping hand, but to wilful idleness he was sternly severe. He was anxious to deal justly with all, and if in any individual case he failed to do so, it was not owing to any want of goodwill or kind-heartedness towards the scholar.

With a very high standard of honor in his daily life and in his communion with his fellowmen, he was not always able to make due allowance for the errors of others, and this led him at times to take a somewhat narrow view of his duty; but all who have known him well, will recall.

with pleasure the dignified cordiality of his greeting, his kindly sympathy in others' joys and sorrows, his tenderness of heart, and his widespread interest in all that was going on about him. These traits continued to the last, even gaining in intensity as his long life approached its end.

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH.

JOHN CUMMINGS.

HON. JOHN CUMMINGS of Woburn, Mass., was elected Resident Fellow of the Academy, in Class III., Section 3, on the 12th of October, 1881. He was at the time well known in this section of the State as generously promoting the teaching of Natural Science in the public schools, and as liberally aiding institutions and individuals in the prosecution of more advanced scientific work. He was Vice-President of the Boston Society of Natural History, and had materially contributed to its museum by the gift of valuable collections, while the botanical specimens were being arranged and multiplied by his liberality.

One of his noteworthy contributions was the entire financial support he gave to the "Teachers' School of Science" for the first two years of its existence. When he was elected to the Academy this school had become of established value in the diffusion of scientific knowledge and in advancing the true method of teaching from objects and natural features.

At the same time he was identified with those who were establishing and building up the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was early made a member of its Corporation and was serving as its Treasurer, an office which he filled with great credit during a long period in the history of the institution when it most needed the services of a treasurer who believed in it and who had the energy and the courage to struggle with many difficulties and discouragements. To him the Institute of Technology is deeply indebted for its present condition.

He was filling many positions of confidence and responsibility and was highly esteemed in business circles. He was President of the Shawmut National Bank; he had served as President of the Boston Board of Trade and of the Shoe and Leather Association; and he had held important offices in the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind; he was State Director of the Boston and Albany Railroad, also a director of the Eastern Railroad. He had rendered valuable service as a mem-